IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Amended) The method of claim ~~25~~ 26, wherein the ~~first, second, and third statistical tables~~ default statistical tables, the statistical noise data table and the resultant calculated noise characteristic table each include a series of standard deviation values for different ranges of scanner intensities ~~provided by the first scanner~~.

5. (Amended) The method of claim ~~25~~ 26, wherein ~~the first, second, and third statistical tables~~ default statistical tables, the statistical noise data table and the resultant calculated noise characteristic table each include at least one histogram.

6. (Amended) The method of claim ~~25~~ 26, wherein ~~the first, second, and third statistical tables~~ default statistical tables, the statistical noise data table and the resultant calculated noise characteristic table each include a series of histograms for different ranges of scanner intensities ~~provided by the first scanner~~.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Amended) The method claimed in claim 4, wherein the resultant calculated noise characteristic table is used in processing the digital image to generate an enhanced digital image ~~for enhancing such digital image~~.

9. (Amended) The method claimed in claim 8, wherein a spatial filter is used to calculate ~~an~~ the enhanced digital image.

10. (Amended) The method claimed in claim 8, further including the step of using the resultant calculated noise characteristic table and a noise reduction filter to calculate ~~an~~ the enhanced digital image.

11. (Amended) The method claimed in claim 8, further including the step of using the resultant calculated noise characteristic table and a spatial sharpening filter to calculate ~~an~~ the enhanced digital image.

12. (Amended) The method claimed in claim 8, further including the step of using the resultant calculated noise characteristic table, a noise reduction filter and a spatial sharpening filter to calculate ~~an~~ the enhanced digital image.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (New) A method of estimating noise in a digital image comprising:

accumulating statistical noise data in a plurality of default statistical tables, wherein each default statistical table corresponds to a unique source identification tag associated with a particular film type, and wherein the statistical noise data within a given default statistical table is related to a particular film type;

utilizing image pixel data from a digital image to calculate a statistical noise data table corresponding to the digital image;

utilizing a source identification tag corresponding to the digital image to select a default statistical table from the plurality of default statistical tables; and

utilizing the selected default statistical table in conjunction with the statistical noise data table corresponding to the digital image to generate a resultant calculated noise characteristic table.

27. A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the digital image is generated by a scanning device capable of scanning a film and generating image pixel data corresponding to the digital image and a source identification tag corresponding to the digital image.